

Cherokee  
Chronicle  
Gaffney, SC  
Circ. 5800  
From Page:  
7  
4/10/2007  
68126



135-157

## *Especially For Seniors*

**Guest Columnist: Lt. Gov. Andre' Bauer**



### **Aging Issues and Answers #2 – Telephone Assistance for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

By Lieutenant Governor  
Andre' Bauer

**Question: I've heard  
special telephones are  
available from the state  
for seniors who have  
trouble hearing. Is that  
true?**

**Answer:** The state does offer programs that can help individuals who are hard of hearing communicate more easily via telephone. State citizens of all ages can qualify, but many people who have hearing loss related to aging could benefit from these programs.

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind and the State Office of Regulatory Staff administer the South Carolina Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP). This program provides telecommunications equipment free of charge to South Carolina residents with qualifying disabilities. According to the information on the TEDP web page ([www.scsdb.k12.sc.us/outreach/TEDP.htm](http://www.scsdb.k12.sc.us/outreach/TEDP.htm)), help is

readily available to South Carolina residents who

need this assistance.

Individuals who are experiencing difficulty using their current telephone equipment are encouraged to apply to receive assistive equipment through the South Carolina Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (SC TEDP). This program provides telecommunications equipment at no cost to South Carolina residents with qualifying hearing, speech, blind/low vision with hearing loss, or dual sensory disabilities.

The program provides a wide range of equipment. Some examples of the equipment include amplified telephones, TTYs (teletype phones), artificial larynx and alerting devices. Training and equipment installation is provided at no charge. SC residents who have phone service in their home and a certified disability that causes difficulty using a standard telephone can qualify for the program.

A professional must certify that the individual can benefit from special telephone equipment.

**Lt. Governor's Office on  
Aging**



Cherokee  
Chronicle  
Gaffney, SC  
Circ. 5800  
From Page:  
7  
4/10/2007  
68126

**For an application and  
more information,  
contact:**

TTY

Fax: 803-896-8345

Email:

[SCTEDP@scsdb.k12.sc.us](mailto:SCTEDP@scsdb.k12.sc.us)

**SC TEDP Director**  
South Carolina School for  
the Deaf and the Blind  
Midlands Regional  
Outreach Center  
101 Executive Center  
Drive,  
Suite 120, Saluda Building  
Columbia, SC 29210

Local: 803-896-8337  
Voice - 803-896-8334  
TTY  
Toll Free: 1-877-225-8337  
Voice - 1-877-889-8337

*Aging Issues and Answers  
is a series of bi-monthly  
columns answering  
common questions posed to  
staff in the Lieutenant  
Governor's Office on  
Aging. Contact the State  
Office at 1-800-868-0995  
or via e-mail at  
[askus@aging.sc.gov](mailto:askus@aging.sc.gov). Your  
question may appear in a  
future edition of Aging  
Issues and Answers.*